

Neha's Reflections

Everyone has the right to a nationality. It doesn't matter who you are!

But countries can decide the rules by which people get nationality. These rules are usually based on who has strong connections to the country because...

- ✿ They were born there
- ✿ Their parents are nationals
- ✿ They live and work there
- ✿ They are married to or are adopted by nationals

But some countries have bad laws, or do not apply their laws correctly. And so...

- ✿ People who **should** have nationality are **denied** it
- ✿ People who **would** have nationality cannot **prove** it
- ✿ People who **do** have nationality can **lose** it

THROUGH MY TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES, ALL THAT I'VE READ AND THE EXPERTS I HAVE SPOKEN TO, I HAVE BEGUN TO LEARN A FAIR BIT ABOUT STATELESSNESS. THERE IS SO MUCH THOUGH, AND IT CAN BE COMPLICATED. SO I DECIDED TO DRAW IT ALL UP IN A WAY THAT MADE SENSE TO ME. HERE IT IS. I HOPE THIS MAKE SENSE TO YOU TOO!



PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO NATIONALITY ARE **STATELESS**. THEIR RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY HAS BEEN DENIED. **ALL PEOPLE HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS**. THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY SHOULD NOT LOSE THEIR OTHER RIGHTS.

BUT COUNTRIES TREAT STATELESS PEOPLE BADLY. THEY DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEM AND DENY THEIR RIGHTS:

- ROSA'S CHILDREN COULD NOT GO TO SCHOOL
- KEZIA'S CHILDREN COULD NOT GO TO HOSPITAL
- RIKI AND AASIF HAD TO WORK LIKE GROWN UPS
- AASIF'S FATHER WAS PUT IN JAIL AND MAY EVEN HAVE BEEN SENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY
- DAHLI COULDN'T PLAY FOOTBALL ABROAD
- THE ROHINGYA WERE PERSECUTED

THIS IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT:

- TO FIGHT FOR EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO A NATIONALITY
- TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF EVERY STATELESS PERSON

SOME THINGS THAT WE CAN DO:

- MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD RECEIVES A BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- MAKE SURE THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST STATELESSNESS
- FIGHT AGAINST LAWS THAT DISCRIMINATE – ESPECIALLY AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITIES, WOMEN AND DISABLED PEOPLE
- PROTEST IF ANY COUNTRY TRIES TO TAKE AWAY SOMEONE'S NATIONALITY
- WELCOME AND PROTECT ALL REFUGEES

